

14328

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification changed

to RESTRICTED

by E. A. BRADYAS, Lt. Col., AC

by F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AC

Date

CONFIDENTIAL

B-15

F-0.10

Photostatic copy of page 15 - 11/14

1

Steve / RFX

Fisher

X Bearkinton

REPORT NO. 1

Original - ~~Supplementary~~  
(Cross out one)

62ND BOMB SQUADRON,  
(Unit)  
39TH BOMB GROUP

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT  
~~RESTRICTED~~  
By W. M. THOMAS, 1st Lt. AC  
Date 1945

XXI Bomber Command

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name AFPO 216; Command or Air Force XX Air Force  
Group 39th Squadron 62nd Bomb Detachment
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure North Field; Course 343°, 357°, 27°, 76°, 128°  
Target or Intended Destination Kushaira
3. FURTHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Visibility 10 miles, 2/10 to 3/10 cumulus clouds tops estimated 7000 ft, base unknown
4. GIVE: (a) Day 27 Month April Year 1945 Time 0940 K; and Location of Last known whereabouts of missing aircraft Approximately 25 miles off Kyushu  
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted ( ); Last contacted by radio ( ); Forced down ( ); Seen to crash (X); or Information not available ( ).
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) Enemy Aircraft ( ); Enemy Anti-Aircraft (X); Other circumstances as follows: Phosphorous Bombs and Fighter Plane Fire
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-29; AAF Serial No. 44-69888
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if Any: None
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series Not applicable AAF Serial Nos  
(a) Plane crashed in (b) water (See XXI Bomber Command Reg 35-10a) Sec IV, par 21)
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):  
Make: Same as Item #8; Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e) \_\_\_\_\_ (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (g) \_\_\_\_\_ (h) \_\_\_\_\_  
(i) \_\_\_\_\_ (j) \_\_\_\_\_ (k) \_\_\_\_\_ (l) \_\_\_\_\_  
(m) \_\_\_\_\_ (n) \_\_\_\_\_ (o) \_\_\_\_\_ (p) \_\_\_\_\_
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X  
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11; Passengers 0; Total 11  
(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars:

| Crew Position | Name in Full (Last Name First) | Rank   | Serial Number | Current Status      |
|---------------|--------------------------------|--------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. A          | Powell, Benjamin L.            | 1st Lt | 0-675871      | Missing             |
| 2. A          | Blackinton, William F.         | 2d Lt  | 0-828924      | Missing             |
| 3. B          | Fisher, Claude E.              | 1st Lt | 0-551163      | Missing             |
| 4. C          | Smith, Robert W.               | 2d Lt  | 0-777043      | Missing             |
| 5. B          | Kasal, Ralph H.                | 1st Lt | 0-571983      | Missing             |
| 6. P          | Johnson, Frank L.              | 2d Lt  | 0-2058394     | Rescued not present |
| 7. G          | Bloane, Richard J.             | Sgt    | 19153137      | Missing             |
| 8. O          | Tarn, Cloies G.                | Cpl    | 37528968      | Rescued not present |
| 9. K          | Hirsch, David L.               | Sgt    | 34887507      | Rescued not present |
| 10. K         | Truffillo, Paul P.             | Sgt    | 37358496      | Missing             |
| 11. K         | Smith, Jack W.                 | Sgt    | 20446138      | Missing             |
| 12.           |                                |        |               |                     |
| 13.           |                                |        |               |                     |
| 14.           |                                |        |               |                     |

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Check only One Column

| Name in Full (Last Name First) | Rank ASN        | Contacted Last by Radio | Saw Sighted | Saw Force Landing |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. Wilson, George S.           | 1st Lt 0-662518 |                         |             | X                 |
| 2. Jones, Robert A.            | C/Sgt 19067326  |                         |             | X                 |
| 3.                             |                 |                         |             |                   |
| 4.                             |                 |                         |             |                   |



11 MAY 1945

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used Yes; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash \_\_\_\_\_; (c) Any other reason (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM:
15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT: Search conducted in accordance with provisions of XXI Bomber Command regulations, 1st Lt Graham S. Campbell, O-724288, 311th Bomb Wing Air Sea Rescue Unit in charge. Survivors picked up by submarines.

DATE OF REPORT 2 May 1945

George W. Mundy  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)  
GEORGE W. MUNDY,  
Colonel, Air Corps,  
Commanding.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

1. All members of crew assigned to 62nd Bomb Squadron with exception of 1st Lt Ralph H. Hazel, O-571963 assigned Headquarters, 39th Bomb Group.
2. Three survivors picked up by submarine. No other details available at present. Survivors still not present at this station.
3. Four crews saw aircraft hit by flak over target. Number 1 engine caught fire after leaving coast and number 1 prop was feathered. Part of wing dropped off 5 minutes later and plane went down in spin. Three parachutes were seen to open and 7 or 8 unidentified objects were seen to leave plane while still in the air. Aircraft was seen to hit the water while still burning. (Reference: Return Report, 39th S-2 to 314th Bomb Wing)

Note: On Supplemental reports, it is not necessary to repeat answers to questions previously answered, except questions 1 and 2. Additional statements may be attached here.

XII BC Casualty Form #5.

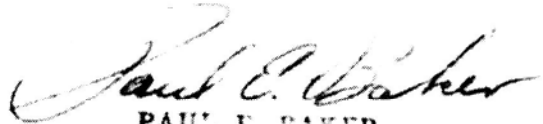
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

14328

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CPXRC 704/2471 1st Ind.  
HEADQUARTERS, CENTRAL PACIFIC BASE COMMAND, APO 956, 17 May 1945

To: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C.  
(Attention: Statistical Control Division)



PAUL E. BAKER,  
1st Lt., A.D.,  
Asst Adjutant General.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed  
to RESTRICTED, Lt. Col. 44  
By Wm. L. THOMAS, 1st Lt. 22  
DATE 1 MAR 1 1946  
DATA OPT 373.4

HEADQUARTERS  
314TH BOMBARDMENT WING  
APO 246 Unit 2, c/o PM  
San Francisco, Calif

3 June 1945

Air Sea Rescue Report No. 8 (Supplement to AAF Form 16, dated 25 May 1945).

1. Wing 314th Group 39th Squadron 62nd B-29 Plane No. 44-69888.
2. Mission No. 10 (Kyushu); date 27 April 1945.
3. Cause of abandonment: Primary cause - Uncontrollable fire at rear of No. 1 engine nacelle and wing section.
4. Time, location: 1000K 32°15'N 131°45'E.

| 5. Crew Position | Name           | Rank   | Last Seen |
|------------------|----------------|--------|-----------|
| 1. P             | B L Powell     | 1st Lt | Missing   |
| 2. CP            | W F Blackinton | 2nd Lt | Missing   |
| 3. N             | C M Fisher     | 1st Lt | Missing   |
| 4. B             | R W Swartz     | 2nd Lt | Missing   |
| 5. RO            | R J Sloane     | Sgt    | Missing   |
| 6. FE            | R H Hazel      | 1st Lt | Missing   |
| 7. RG            | P P Trugille   | Cpl    | Missing   |
| 8. LG            | D L Hirsch     | Sgt    | Rescued   |
| 9. TG            | J W Smith      | Cpl    | Missing   |
| 10. CFC          | C G Tarn       | Cpl    | Rescued   |
| 11. Radar Opr    | F F Johnson    | 2nd Lt | Rescued   |

6. Narrative Report.

a. Cause of abandonment.

The aircraft arrived at Tanego Shima at 16,500 feet altitude and circled in the NE quadrant of that island which was the assembly point. It left the assembly point in formation and flew to IP which was Sata-Misaki. Primary target was Kushira Airfield in South Kyushu. On the bomb run encountered meager flak and some of the phosphorous type bombs. Fighters circled during bomb run but made no attacks.

When the bombardier tried to toggle all the bombs they remained in the racks. He tried three times to release the bombs but was unsuccessful. Almost immediately after the formation dropped their bombs, fighters started their attacks. The attacking planes were mostly Zeros and Tonys, all single engine land planes. There were perhaps 10 to 12 attacks, none of which came closer than 400 to 600 yards. Top gunner noted bullet holes in vertical stabilizer and a large hole in rear of No. 1 engine nacelle and wing section. Fighter attacks practically ceased about five miles off shore. Rally point was approximately twenty miles up the coast from Tol-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Misaki. About fifteen miles out from rally point, the left gunner noticed flames coming from the rear of the No. 1 engine nacelle. The left gunner reported the fire over the interphone. The engineer asked where it was coming from and the left gunner told him. The co-pilot suggested opening cowl flaps, which was done. The pilot nosed the aircraft down a bit to try to blow the fire out. The top and tail gunners reported flames extending past the tail. The tail gunner called "depressurize, depressurize, depressurize". On instructions from pilot, the right gunner salvaged bombs in forward bomb bay and two tanks in rear bomb bay. Pilot called "Blackjack 50 in trouble - Blackjack 50 in trouble". The left gunner pulled pressure release, then the alarm bell rang in a series of short rings.

b. Preparation for abandonment: The top gunner went back to the radar compartment. The radar observer and top gunner opened the rear pressure door and then the rear entrance door.

c. Abandonment: The radar observer and CFC gunner saw the right gunner climb down into the rear bomb bay. The top gunner jumped from rear exit. The radar observer looked back to the tail but the tail pressure door was closed. The radar observer jumped about 10 seconds after the top gunner through rear exit. The left gunner bailed out from rear bomb bay after right gunner. About 30 seconds after the men jumped from the burning aircraft they saw the ship fall off on its left wing which was completely in flames. Thereafter the left wing broke off and the ship plunged through a low layer of altostratus clouds to explode in the ocean. None of the men saw the aircraft hit the water but they all heard the explosion. While in the air the radar observer saw two chutes below him, each of the two gunners saw his chute and each others. Apparently the right gunner's chute did not open.

d. Weather: Visibility was 10 miles. The wind was 15 mph from the southeast. The height of swell was 12 feet.

e. Survival: After the crew members had hit the water one of the ships from the formation circled their position twice and flew off.

The left gunner had a type B-4 life preserver and a type C-2 one-man life raft, which he inflated as soon as he was clear of his chute. He signaled the super-dumbos and later the submarine with the signal mirror, but did not use sea marker.

The top gunner wore a Mae West which he inflated upon striking the water, he had not taken the one man life raft. Two rafts were dropped by a super-dumbo, and he managed to secure one, inflate it and climb in. He used sea marker dye as soon as he sighted a super-dumbo. Upon seeing the submarine 3 1/2 hours later, he waved his life vest.

The radar observer did not have a life raft, but did have a Mae West, etc. He used his sea marker dye when super-dumbos flew overhead. The super-dumbo dropped him a life raft. Later the super-dumbos dropped smoke flares to direct the submarine.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

6. Rescue: The top gunner was the first man to be picked up by the submarine, the left gunner was picked up a few minutes later, and the radar observer was picked up last.

The super-dumbos and the submarine searched the rest of the day but found no other survivors. The submarine visited the oil slick area but found only wreckage and oxygen bottles. One one-man life raft was found floating half inflated and was sunk by the submarine. That evening the search was abandoned by superdumbos and the submarine.

g. Crew Recommendations:

1. Recommend 45 cal. tracer ammunition be carried in a clip attached to pistol belt.
2. Recommend a mirror and a first aid kit be attached to the Type B-4 life preserver (Mae West).

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL POWER:

*Floyd Cooley*  
FLOYD COOLEY  
Lt. Colonel, AGD  
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 20-CG, XXIBG                                   | 2-Comdr Iwo Jima Air Sea       |
| 40-Ea Wg of XXIBG                              | Rescue Task Unit, FPO          |
| 1-Air Sea Rescue & Pers Equip                  | 3-Comdr Flt Air Wg One, FPO    |
| -Section, Wright Fld, Ohio                     | 2-Comdr Saipan Surface Patrol  |
| 1-Capt L.B. Carroll, AAFPOA,                   | & Escort Group, FPO            |
| APO 234 (Electr Section)                       | 2-Comdr Iwo Jima Surface       |
| 12-CG, Twentieth Air Force, Wash, D.C.         | Patrol & Escort Gp, FPO        |
| 10-CG, 2AF, Colo Spgs, Colo                    | 1-Comdr 5th Flt, FPO           |
| 2-Air Surgeons Office, Wash, D.C.              | 1-Comdr 1st Carrier Task Force |
| 5-CG, AAFTAC, Orlando, Fla.                    | FPO                            |
| 1-C/S, Twentieth Air Force, Wash, D.C.         | 1-Joint Intel Center POA, FPO  |
| 1-CG, 7th Ftr Comd, APO 86                     |                                |
| 6-DepCom, 20AF, APO 953                        |                                |
| 15-EO 3d Photo Sq, APO 234                     |                                |
| 2-Lt Col Wilcox, AAFPOA, APO 234               |                                |
| (Air Sea Rescue Section)                       |                                |
| 1-Asst C of Air Staff, (O.C.&H)                |                                |
| Emergency Rescue Branch, Wash, D.C.            |                                |
| 3-Comdr Sub Forces PacFlt, FPO                 |                                |
| 1-CinC PacFlt, Rear Hq, FPO                    |                                |
| 2-CinC PacFlt, Adv Hq, FPO                     |                                |
| 2-CofNaval Opns, OP-16-V, Navy Dept,           |                                |
| Wash, D.C.                                     |                                |
| 2-Comdr AF PacFlt, Rear Hq, FPO                |                                |
| 1-Comdr AF PacFlt, Adv Hq, FPO                 |                                |
| 1-Comdr Air Sea Rescue Task Gp                 |                                |
| Pudara, FPO                                    |                                |
| 5-Comdr Marianas Air Sea Rescue Task Unit, FPO |                                |

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



1st Lt. Claude H. Fisher

Mrs. Blanche L. Fisher (mother) ✓  
219 Miller Avenue  
Lima, Ohio

1st Lt. Ralph H. Hesel

Mrs. Martha L. Hesel (mother)  
1237 Mississippi Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee

1st Lt. Benjamin L. Powell

Mrs. Agnes C. Powell (mother) ✓  
2228 Jefferson Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia

2nd Lt. William F. Blackinton

Mrs. Myrtle Blackinton (wife) ✓  
512 Lincoln Avenue  
Ogden, Utah

2nd Lt. Robert W. Swarts

Mr. Otto Swarts (father) ✓  
2526 25th Street N.E.  
Seattle, Washington ✓

Sgt. Jack W. Smith

Mrs. Susan F. Smith (mother) ✓  
548 Davis Street  
Shreveport, Louisiana ✓

Sgt. Paul F. Trajillo

Mrs. Marie E. Trajillo (wife) ✓  
P.O. Box 213  
Mt. Grove, Missouri ✓

Sgt. Richard J. Slone

Mr. Maurice F. Slone (father) ✓  
1712 Reading Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio ✓

**MISSING AIR CREW REPORT**  
**WAR DEPARTMENT**  
**HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES**  
**WASHINGTON**

MACR NO. 14528

**IMPORTANT:** This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: LOCATION: AFD 246 COMMAND OR AIR FORCE XXI B. C. XX A. F.  
 GROUP 32nd; SQUADRON 42nd; DETACHMENT \_\_\_\_\_
2. SPECIFY: POINT OF DEPARTURE North Fld; COURSE 343°53'27"76"128°  
 INTENDED DESTINATION Beshrifa; TYPE OF MISSION Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Visibility 10 miles 2/10 to 3/10 cumulus clouds tops estimated 7000 ft. Base unknown.
4. GIVE: (A) DATE 27 April 46 TIME 0940 E; AND LOCATION OF LAST KNOWN  
 WHEREABOUTS OF MISSING AIRCRAFT, Approximately 25 miles off Kyushu  
 (B) SPECIFY WHETHER ( ) LAST SIGHTED; ( ) LAST CONTACTED BY RADIO;  
 ( ) FORCED DOWN; ( ) SEEN TO CRASH; OR ( ) INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF (CHECK ONLY ONE): ( ) ENEMY AIRCRAFT; ( ) ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT; ( ) OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES AS FOLLOWS: Phosphorous Bombs and Fighter Plane Fire.
6. AIRCRAFT: TYPE, MODEL AND SERIES B-29; AAF SERIAL NO. 44-69888
7. ENGINES: TYPE, MODEL AND SERIES Not applicable; AAF SERIAL NO. (A) \_\_\_\_\_  
Plane crashed (B) in water (See XI(C) Bomber Command RegD) 35-10 Sec IV, par 21)
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (FURNISH BELOW MAKE, TYPE AND SERIAL NUMBER)  
 (A) Some as item #7 (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_ (D) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (E) \_\_\_\_\_ (F) \_\_\_\_\_ (G) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (A) BATTLE CASUALTY X  
 OR (B) NON-BATTLE CASUALTY \_\_\_\_\_
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: CREW 11; PASSENGERS 0; TOTAL 11  
 (Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 11 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form)

| CREW POSITION | NAME IN FULL<br>(LAST NAME FIRST) | RANK           | SERIAL<br>NUMBER | STATUS     |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------|
| (1) PILOT     | <u>A Powell, Benjamin L.</u>      | <u>1st Lt.</u> | <u>O-875871</u>  | <u>KIA</u> |
| (2) CO-PILOT  | <u>A Blackinton, William F.</u>   | <u>2nd Lt.</u> | <u>O-828924</u>  | <u>KIA</u> |
| (3)           | <u>B Fisher, Claude M.</u>        | <u>1st Lt.</u> | <u>O-854163</u>  | <u>KIA</u> |
| (4)           | <u>C Swartz, Robert W.</u>        | <u>2nd Lt.</u> | <u>O-777045</u>  | <u>KIA</u> |
| (5)           | <u>H Hesel, Ralph H.</u>          | <u>1st Lt.</u> | <u>O-871983</u>  | <u>KIA</u> |
| (6)           | <u>P Johnson, Frank L.</u>        | <u>2nd Lt.</u> | <u>O-2088394</u> | <u>RTD</u> |
| (7)           | <u>G Slemo, Richard J.</u>        | <u>Sgt.</u>    | <u>19 153137</u> | <u>KIA</u> |
| (8)           | <u>O Tamm, Charles G.</u>         | <u>Cpl.</u>    | <u>37 528988</u> | <u>RTD</u> |
| (9)           | <u>K Hirsch, David L.</u>         | <u>Sgt.</u>    | <u>34 887507</u> | <u>KIA</u> |
| (10)          | <u>K Traillie, Paul P.</u>        | <u>Sgt.</u>    | <u>37558496</u>  | <u>KIA</u> |
| (11)          | <u>K Smith, Jack W.</u>           | <u>Sgt.</u>    | <u>20446188</u>  | <u>KIA</u> |

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

| NAME IN FULL<br>(LAST NAME FIRST) | RANK           | SERIAL<br>NUMBER | CONTACTED<br>BY<br>RADIO | LAST<br>SIGHTED | SAW<br>CRASH | SAW FORCED<br>LANDING |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| (1) <u>Wilson, George S.</u>      | <u>1st Lt.</u> | <u>O-662518</u>  |                          |                 | <u>X</u>     |                       |
| (2) <u>Jones, Robert A.</u>       | <u>S/Sgt.</u>  | <u>19 087326</u> |                          |                 | <u>X</u>     |                       |
| (3)                               |                |                  |                          |                 |              |                       |

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (A) PARACHUTES WERE USED Yes; (B) PERSONS WERE SEEN WALKING AWAY FROM SCENE OF CRASH \_\_\_\_\_; OR (C) ANY OTHER REASON (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

13. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE Search conducted in accordance with provisions of XXI Bomber Command regulations, 1st Lt. Graham S. Campbell, O-724288, 316th Bomb Wing Air Sea Rescue Unit in charge. Survivors picked up by submarines.

2 May 1946

(Date of Report)

s/t/ GEORGE W. MUNDY(Signature of Preparing Officer) Colonel, Air Corps,  
Commanding.(PREPARED BY MEMORIAL DIVISION (OMG)) fml  
 REMARKS: (Use additional sheet if necessary)

REMARKS:

1. All members of crew assigned to 62nd Bomb Squadron with exception of 1st Lt. Ralph H. Hasel, O-571 988 assigned Headquarters, 39th Bomb Group.
2. Three survivors picked up by submarine. No other details available at present. Survivors still not present at this station.
3. Four crews saw aircraft hit by Flak over target. Number one engine caught fire after leaving coast and number one prop was feathered. Part of wing dropped off five minutes later and plane went down in spin. Three parachutes were seen to open and 7 or 8 unidentified objects were seen to leave plane while still in the air. Aircraft was seen to hit the water while still burning. (Reference: Return Report, 39th B-2 to 514th Bomb Wing)